

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A SOFTWARE STEERABLE WEB CAMERA

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Technical Field

This disclosure relates generally to digital imaging, digital video or web cameras, and more particularly but not exclusively, to systems and methods for capturing camera images by use of software control.

Background

Conventional digital imaging, digital video or web cameras ("webcams") can be used for teleconferencing, surveillance, and other purposes. One of the problems with conventional webcams is that they have a very restricted field of vision. This restricted vision field is due to the limitations in the mechanism used to control the webcam and in the optics and other components in the webcam.

In order to increase the vision field of a webcam, the user might manually control the webcam to pan and/or tilt in various directions (e.g., side-to-side or up-and-down) and/or to zoom in or away from an image to be captured. However, this manual technique is inconvenient, as it requires the user to stop whatever he/she is doing, to